



MEETING MINUTES / 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Showell, Armbruster, Baldwin, Johnson, Lardizzzone, Lopez, Magner, McMullen, Newman, Newstadt (telephone), Sarg, Seppala, and Stewart **93.3%**

Excused: Bradley

Guests: Vince Kane – telephone (Wilmington VAMC), Liz Byers-Jiron, Pat Cerchio (First State Women Warriors), Dave Skocik (Delaware Veterans Coalition), Kim McMullen

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence

- For Hurricane Florence victims

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Lardizzzone and Sarg

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director (telephone)

Selected new Chief of Staff

- All leadership positions are full

James Cody has transferred to Chief, Volunteer Services

- VISN will assist with public affairs until his former position is filled

Advertising for second Public Outreach position

- Will supplement Mark Taylor

- Advertised on USA Jobs

Preparing for Delaware Veterans Stand Down

Participated in successful Veterans Mental Health Summit

Dover CBOC expansion request is still awaiting approval

Teams from other VA centers are assisting with TeleStroke program implementation

- Can help victims with first signs of a stroke

- Will be located in the Intensive Care Unit

- Only 14 centers have this capability

(Sarg) Is TeleHealth still restricted to mental health patients?

No it was recently used for mobile wheelchair patients and are seeking ways to expand beyond mental health.

(Sarg) When is the dental clinic ribbon cutting?

28 September / 1100

(Lopez) Will the second outreach position cover the entire state?

No, this position will be based in Sussex

(Farley) Will the TeleStroke program be available at CBOCs?

No they don't have the capabilities so it is only at the Wilmington VAMC

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

Not present

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Not present

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Liz Byers-Jiron

Stand Down is 21 September

- This year has expanded news coverage
- Great participation is expected
- 150 organizations are registered
- Opening ceremonies are 0930

Pat Cerchio

Womens' monument dedication is 3 November

- Parade starts at 1000 and you must register to participate
- Monument dedication is 1200
- Women veteran license plates will be available
 - - Must have DD 214 and vehicle registration
- Filming parade and dedication to use on commemorative DVD

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 71

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 27

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Delta Dental will no longer cover military retirees and 10 other dental plans will be available for re-enrollment

- Enrollment dates: 12 November – 11 December

Flu shots will be administered during Dover AFB Retiree Day

Dental plan information will be available during Dover AFB Retiree Day

Read letter from Paul Davis regarding Blue Water Navy Bill

- Senators Carper and Coons expressed support of the bill
- Department of VA Secretary Wilkie does not support the bill
- MOAA and other service organizations will advocate for the bill

(Baldwin) recommended following Senator Carper's bill support to ensure he signs legislation

(Magner) has researched ships assigned to the region that may have been contaminated

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

House Bill 368 Green Alert was signed by Governor Carney

No commission legislation was approved by the General Assembly

(Baldwin) Asked why the commission's recommended legislation wasn't passed, noted VVA also questioned non-action

(Kirby) Explained the need for specific General Assembly sponsors for proposed commission legislation. Providing a list of recommendations to the House Veterans Affairs Committee has not been effective during the previous three years. The legislative committee should consider changes to submissions and this can be accomplished during their meeting.

(Commissioners) Most understood the need for sponsorship, understanding that a submitted list does not ensure action.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 18; Granted 11 (61.1%); Awarded \$15,100.39; Balance - \$56,740.00

Trust Fund Information

- Each granted application has multiple agency reviewers and is also reviewed/approved by the Department of State of Delaware
- Monies cannot be utilized for other than trust fund grants because the monies are contained within a Department of State account

Amputee Veteran Information (TheraV)

- Provided information a device which may minimize phantom pain felt by amputees
- Information will be forwarded via email

Agency Advertisement

- Provided a copy of the advertisement which will appear in local newspapers
- Bolstering ways to make citizens more aware of the agency

Strategic Plan Update

- Provided a handout from the agency's recent strategic plan implementation
- Explained the vision, core values, mission, and critical goals
- Highlighted the need for outreach to ensure citizens think of the agency first when seeking veteran assistance
- Highlighted metrics to possibly gain additional employees due to workload

Department of State Guidance

- Explained the chain of command and how the agency falls under the Department of State's guidance

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

25 – 28 Aug: Attended International Convention / Professional Airman's Conference, San Antonio
- High level Air Force leaders provided comments and the former Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force panel was a highlight

- CMSgt (ret) Michael Carton was elected to lead AFSA for two years

20 Sep: Next chapter meeting

21 Sep: POW/MIA Luncheon / 1130 and Retreat / 1600

15 Sep: Attended DAV Picnic

17 Sep: Attended Executive Committee meeting

Commissioner Armbruster (American Legion - AL)

11 Sep: Attended 9/11 service at Holy Rosary Church, Claymont

- Governor and U.S. Senators were present

American Legion Baseball – Post 1 won the World Series in Shelby, North Carolina

24 – 30 Aug: Attended National Convention, Minneapolis, MN

- Spirit of Service Award presented to Staff Sergeant Robert Andrews of Dover AFB

- Presented for volunteer service

28 – 30 Sep: Oratorical Contest, Indianapolis

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

31 Aug: Attended Pam Anderson farewell

11 Sep: Attended Military Honor and Patriots Day Celebration, CHEER Center, Georgetown

13 Sep: Attended Womens Monument meeting

17 Sep: Attended Executive Committee meeting
18 Sep: Attended Wilmington VAMC bingo
Seeking Buffalo Soldiers attendance at Veterans Day Parade
Seeking World War II female nurse for Veterans Day Parade

Commissioner Johnson (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)
11 Sep: Attended CHEER's program "Military Honor and Patriot Day," Georgetown
Chapter 1 resumed monthly meetings
18 Sep: Attended "Chicks for Charity" fundraiser
21 Sep: Attending Veterans Stand Down
Seeking Wreaths Across America participation

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)
Briefed Noble's Pond, Independent Living Community, Veterans

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)
20 Aug: Attended Congressional Veterans Job Fair, Dover
7 Sep: Attended Congressional Veterans Job Fair, Middletown
11 Sep: Attended Veterans Mental Health Summit
13 Sep: Concerned Veterans Home Caregiver meeting
14 Sep: Attended Veterans Home Executive meeting with Senator Carper
18 Sep: Attended Kent County Economic Summit
- Emphasized technology, warehousing and distribution, and healthcare employment opportunities

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)
Returning from summer break
8 Sep: Attended organization Executive Committee meeting
- Made annual plans
12 Sep: Chapter 1787, Sussex, held fundraiser at Grotto's Pizza, Long Neck
- Donations go to Delaware Veterans Home
29 Sep / 1000 – 1600: Chapter 9377, New Castle, will hold viola fundraiser at Acme, Lantana Square, Hockessin
- Usually raises close to \$1000.00
Mentioned Pencader Museum is open every first and third Saturday from 1000 - 1500

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)
Nothing to report

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)
Stopped by Watch Maker's School
- Impressed with five students
- Tiffany's and Rolex representatives are interested in guest speaking
Working with General Vavala and Dr. Andrzejewski to create veterans' education resource center
- Working with state chamber
- Learned Virginia has an "arm" of state chamber dedicated to veterans, schedule to visit for observation
23 - 27 Jul: Presented a "Principals Perspective on JROTC" seminar in San Diego to 160 retiring Navy and Marine Corps senior enlisted and senior officers
7 Dec: Smyrna Pearl Harbor dedication
Delaware Military Academy and First State Military Academy have been recognized by Department of Navy as distinguished honors schools

- Provides two to three nominations for service academies
- Discussed that Military Friendly Schools is not a well-defined designation

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)

Highlighted “Chicks for Charity” dinner supporting the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund

- Presented \$1628.00 to Friends of Delaware Veterans
- Looking to promote events in Kent and New Castle counties
- Appreciated contributing to local charity

Appointed Delaware Tech, Owens Campus, Veterans and Service Member Representative

166th Airlift Wing, new commander, Colonel Lynn Robinson

Seven DNG members are supporting Hurricane Florence relief efforts

- Six Army Guardsmen to NG Bureau’s Joint C4 Communications Center (Arlington)
- One Air Guardsman to Andrews AFB, MD

22 Sep: Delaware Army National Guard State of the Guard briefing at Arlington Hall Station

28 Sep: Camp Honorary Retiree Breakfast

13 – 14 Oct: DNG Drill Weekend

- Air Guard Assistant Adjutant General (ATAG) Change of Command
- Brig General Wendy Wenke is new ATAG

Complimented Service Officer Matticks for his work processing claims for Kent County

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large, affiliated with Jewish War Veterans)

Although Jewish War Veterans is disbanding through an executive committee meeting decided to continue hosting bingo at the Wilmington VAMC

Distributing funds to various local charities/organizations

Asked about ground breaking for Wilmington VAMC parking garage, no information is available

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)

1 Sep: Attended Pencader Heritage Museum, Newark, ceremony commemorating Continental Army soldiers killed in the Battle of Cooch’s Bridge

15 Sep: Worked at Delaware Military Museum supporting General Howe’s Hockessin encampment lecture

- Lectures every second Saturday, 1300 – 1400

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

30 Aug: Co-chaired Veterans Parade Committee meeting

5 Sep: Post 2 Executive Board/Membership meetings

- Reported Post 2 sustained significant flood damage

6 Sep: Attended Veterans Stand Down meeting

13 Sep: Attended Women’s Military Service Monument meeting

13 Sep: Attended Veterans Stand Down meeting

17 Sep: Participated in Delmarva Life interview for publicizing Delaware Veterans Stand Down

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans associations)

Attended Student Veterans Task Force meeting

- Finding ways to improve state of education for veteran students
- Working to gain credit from military duties
- Working to determine “Military Friendly School Designation”
 - - There is a need to clarify this term

TERM COMPLETION:

Lardizzone: 21 October 2018

EVENTS:

21 Sep / 0900 – 1400: Delaware Veterans Stand Down, Schutte Park, Dover
21 Sep / 1600: POW/MIA Retreat, Flagstaff, Dover AFB
29 Sep / 1100 – 1500: Vet Fest, 801 Mapleton Ave, Middletown
12 Oct / 1300: Elizabeth Loncki Bridge Dedication, Dover AFB
18 Oct / 0830: Delaware Joining Forces, Adams State Service Center, Georgetown
20 Oct / 0800 – 1200: Retiree Appreciation Day, The Landings, Dover AFB

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Leadership Elections (OPEN)

NEW BUSINESS:**ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:****SPECIAL SESSION:**

Election Results:

Chair Member – Angela Showell ran unopposed

- Mentioned need for Vice Chair and Commissioner support
- Still adjusting to new employment with Delaware Technical Community College
- Will work hard yet will have other commitments

Vice Chair Member – Jason Stewart defeated Paul Lardizzone

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, 16 October 2018 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs